GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1668
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2002
TERRORIST ATTACKS ON VDC
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists are targeting Village Defence Committee (VDC) members in isolated villages in Jammu and Udhampur regions in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Army has recommended that the VDCs be given modern automatic weapons as the militants carry highly sophisticated arms; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As per information furnished by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir, 15 VDC members have been killed during this year upto June 30, 2002.

(c) & (d): Army recommended the issue of self loading rifles to Village Defence Committees (VDCs) on trial basis.The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir have not considered it appropriate to equip each VDC member with automatic weapons for operational and security reasons. However, three Special Police Officers attached to each VDCs have been provided with semi-automatic weapons etc.